



MEDIA RELEASE

“Thriving with Age” National Conference

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NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE TO SERVICES AND PEOPLE IN WA,NSW,VIC,QLD,TAS

Vaughan Harding, the Chief Executive of Uniting Church Homes in Western Australia and Dr Jan Herbert, chair of the St Andrews Village Board in Ballina, NSW have both won a top national award for their lifetime’s work in aged and community care. The annual Awards for Excellence, awarded today in Canberra at the Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) National Conference, recognise excellence in quality care and services for older people at a state or national level.

Other National Awards winners include services and individuals from New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, including DutchCare, an ethno specific service in Melbourne and The Mary Ogilvy Homes Society in Hobart, both of which have won two national awards.

The Individual Award, sponsored by the Royal Freemason’s Home of Victoria has for the first time gone to two worthy winners. Vaughan Harding heads Uniting Church Homes, one of the major providers of home care in metropolitan and rural Western Australia. It employs over 900 staff and has around 2,000 clients and residents receiving services. Vaughan has shown national and state aged care leadership and ‘never lets us lose sight of why we are here for residents and employees.’

Dr Jan Herbert, who is now at Ballina, has had an illustrious career as a nurse, educator, academic, administrator and policy maker in gerontology and aged care at facility, local, regional, state and commonwealth levels, and is seen as the pioneer of quality standards and accreditation in aged care.

A panel of judges including prominent philanthropist Baillieu Myer AC; Rt Hon. Ian Sinclair, Robert Fitzgerald from the Productivity Commission, and the Hon Rob Knowles, National Complaints Commissioner, selected the all the winners and finalists, who were nominated as outstanding achievers in the aged and community care industry throughout Australia.

Runners -up, who are also formally recognised, come from Perth; Brompton in SA; Melbourne; Sydney, Ballina, Parkes and the Illawarra region in NSW , Brisbane and Hobart.

ACSA’s 2005 Awards for Excellence in Aged Care cover eight categories, for the outstanding individual, organisation- residential and community, volunteer and paid worker, newsletter-professional and voluntary, and training innovation program.

“The ACSA Awards have been made since 1990 and are the industry recognition of dedication and innovation in providing services to older Australians and younger Australians with a disability,” ACSA President Glen Bunney said.

“The depth of the fields for each of the Awards is something the industry can be proud of. They are based on nominations from industry and so reflect peer recognition and reward for excellence – just like the Oscars.”

Individual Award for Excellence: *Proudly sponsored by the Royal Freemasons' Homes of Victoria*
Two individuals were recognised for their lifetime's work in aged and community care.

Dr Jan Herbert, Chair, St Andrews Village Board, Ballina, New South Wales has had an illustrious career as a nurse, educator, academic, administrator and policy maker in gerontology and aged care at facility, local, regional, state and commonwealth levels, and is seen as a pioneer of quality standards and accreditation in aged care.

Mr Vaughan Harding is Chief Executive of Uniting Church Homes in Western Australia, one of the major providers of home care in metropolitan and rural Western Australia. It employs more than 900 staff and has around 2,000 clients and residents receiving services. Vaughan has shown national and state aged care leadership and 'never lets us lose sight of why we are here for residents and employees' according to his citation.

Employee Award: *Proudly sponsored by HESTA Superannuation Fund.*

Winner: Mr Paul Brophy, Sambell Lodge, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Clifton Hill, Victoria.

The runners up are

- Ms Loes Morter, Nurse Unit Manager, Churches of Christ Community Care, Northcote, Victoria
- Ms Joyce Stephan, Regional Manager - Central & Southern, Masonic Care Queensland, Sandgate, Qld
- Mrs Annie Vagg, Director of Nursing, Churches of Christ Community Care, Coffs Harbour, NSW

Volunteer Award: *Proudly sponsored by Southern Cross Care (Australia)*

Winner: Mrs Rae Logan, The Mary Ogilvy Homes Society, New Town, Tasmania

The runners up are Mrs Marie Willans, Silver Chain, Osborne Park Western Australia and Mr Jack Ross, Volunteer Task Force, North Perth Western Australia

Organisation Award - Residential Care: *Proudly sponsored by Silverman Dakin*

Winner: DutchCare, Kilsyth and Carrum Downs, Victoria.

The runners up are Ex-Services Homes Ballina, New South Wales (also finalists in 2004)
IRT Residential Services, Woonona, New South Wales and
Warrigal Care, Albion Park, New South Wales

Organisation Award - Community Care: *Proudly sponsored by Smartlink International*

Winner: IRT Community Care Services, Woonona, New South Wales.

The runners up are Royal Freemasons' Homes of Victoria, Prahran, Victoria
Stirling Volunteer Transport, Balcatta, Western Australia
Croatian Ukrainian & Belarusian Aged Care Association, Brompton, SA

Newsletter Awards: *Proudly sponsored by ACSure Insurance*

For a stimulating and positive newsletter involving, informing and reaching consumers, their carers, families and friends,

A newsletter produced by dedicated staff and/or with professional help

Winner: *Over the Fence*, from Tri Care - Compton Gardens, Aspley, Queensland.

Runners up are *Link* from Silver Chain, Western Australia, and
Bentley Park Tidings from the Swan Care Group in Western Australia

A publication produced by volunteers, or in addition to normal duties

Winner: *Residents Newsletter*, from The Mary Ogilvy Homes Society, New Town, Tasmania.

Runners up are *Rosedurnate Ramblings* from Rosedurnate Aged Care, Parkes, NSW and
The Star, Mary's Grange, Taroom, Tasmania.

Training Innovation Award: *Proudly sponsored by Australian College of Health Service Executives*

The joint winners are: DutchCare, Kilsyth and Carrum Downs, Victoria and
RSL Care, Fortitude Valley, Queensland.

Runner up: Royal District Nursing Service, St Kilda Victoria.

CONTACT: Megan Stoyles on 0408 147 829 for further details. Winners have been notified.